



SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

CIRCULAR

File AP_4/12/18 **TO:** SPREP Focal Points
Date: 7 November 2022
Circular: 22/99
Subject **Country GEF 8 STAR Allocation Support Letter- Enhancing access and use of Environmental Data in the Pacific**

Dear SPREP Members,

Pursuant to the Third SPREP Executive Board endorsement of a portion of Member countries' national GEF 8 STAR allocation to continue the implementation of the Pacific Environmental Data Project currently supported under the Inform Project, we kindly seek your assistance in providing an official letter of support for the proposed Inform Phase 2 project proposal. The project will require a contribution from Member countries' GEF STAR allocation between 200 to 400 thousand US Dollars from each of the 14 Pacific Island countries which would give a total of between 2.8m and 5.5 million to implement the project over four years. In this regard, grateful if the letter of support could also indicate the amount of your contribution from your national GEF 8 STAR allocation. The letter of endorsement will greatly assist with the project concept submission to the Global Environment Facility.

As you are aware, one of the priorities of the Secretariat is to strengthen information, knowledge, and communications systems that get the right information to the right people at the right time and influence positive organisational, behavioural, and environmental change. In addressing this, the Inform project, has developed the Pacific Environmental Portal Network connecting countries and territories to the regional hub and has worked with the 14 Pacific Island nations to increase the use and availability of data to assist in decision making and reporting. It has produced and established supporting guidebooks, e-learning platforms, and strengthened data analysis and reporting frameworks, data portals, as well as planning frameworks. The data portals have played a crucial role in providing data and information used to produce National State of Environment (SOE) reports and National Environment Management Strategies (NEMS) for many of our member countries. It has also been used to produce national reports to Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEA) and reports required under national legislations. The network of data portals has increased the exchange and availability of information between data providers and users.

The current Inform project is ending in December 2022 and the proposed GEF 8 project proposal will allow SPREP and Member countries to build on the groundwork established by the Inform project specifically to address key critical areas that countries have identified such as environmental standards, field data collection methodology, expanding environmental data management to wider sectors, enhanced GIS use and application, and data advocacy. This proposed project will also further enhance environmental outcomes, streamline reporting to MEAs and SDGs while increasing data availability for both environmental and climate change adaptation planning.

For further information, please contact Mr. Jope Davetanivalu, Director Environmental Monitoring and Governance Programme on email joped@sprep.org

I look forward to your kind consideration of our request and thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,



Easter Chu Shing
Acting Director General

ECS/JD/jd